Remarks on letter from Lydia A. Francis to Emily E.

Leicester, July 30th 1857.

My dear Miss Esther,—

I have just put the last word to a letter to your father — (it has seemed like old times to be writing to him again). Will you accept a few lines, as a sort of appendage thereto? I rather imagine you still at Cleveden, and I trust the sunshine is pouring away for you serenely, — and that your father is tranquil and free from suffering, even if unable to make much exertion.

You doubtless recollect sending me, last winter, a parcel of letters wh. you had received from various quarters — from Mr. Chefson, Mr. Steinthal, Mr. Chamerovzow, Mr. Mayer, &c. Well, to me confess — the half of those letters I did not read until this very past week. When they came, I was almost too busy to read & answer the letters, I was daily receiving myself. I did however read Mr. Chamerovzow's, & one, I believe, of Mr. Chefson's. I then, of course, intended finishing them soon, & sending them, as I think you requested me, to Mr. McKim. They got laid snugly away in a drawer of mine in Boston, and I did not fully bring them to light till about a week since, when I brought them to Leicester, and read & re-read the whole. I have again put them in a parcel, with a note, to go to Anne Weston, and when she is done with them, I shall lose no time in sending them to McKim. — Their reading gave me much satisfaction, & was otherwise interesting, though they are now old letters. — Mr. Chamerovzow's letter always had an air of diplomacy to me, — a trait I don't like;

for it keeps me, as it were, suspecting something which I don't see. I find that Pillsbury was not very favourably impressed with the little which he saw of him. I have very much liked everything I have seen of Mr. Chesson's. He seems so manly & sensible, - so frank, & open, & courageous, - and withal not wanting in a disposition to unite and conciliate; - in which latter, however, there is always danger, - as he found, to his sorrow doubtless, more than his surprise, in his experience with those Manchester bigots, - to call them by no harder name. - - Mr. Sterndale appears to be a true man; impulsive indeed, but of generous impulses, large-hearted, quick to perceive the merits of a question, and prompt to follow his convictions of right. Such men as Mr. Chesson and he are worth, to such a cause as ours, which has nothing to stand upon but its intrinsic Justice, and Righteousness, - a pretty broad foundation, to be sure - more than fifty such men as Joseph Sturge with all his money and influence), - so I think. Mrs. Massie's letter, & one of her sister in London (who seems to be a kindred spirit) I read with much pleasure; also a copy of a letter to Mrs. Massie from Mrs. Thomas. What Mrs. Thomas? - I feel somewhat curious to know. I have ventured to copy off a portion of said copy, to be sent to the "Standard", as a specimen of the feeling of an English lady, - carefully suppressing all names, & every clue. I hope this is allowable. Some of those Edinburgh ladies are completely befogged; and I don't wonder at Mrs. Massie's being troubled, if she has many

such epistle from her orthodox friend, as that of the Edinburgh lady, whose name I have now lost, who felt it to be her duty to withdraw, for the sake of Christ, from helping the Antislavery Bazaar in Boston, because Henry C. Wright wrote to the Liberator some criticisms on the Bible which she deemed too free. — It seems to me such a person has very little real interest in the cause of Antislavery, — or very little power of reflection, or depth of mind; — for she did appear quite sincere. Yet it seems she belongs to the Free Church", which took £9000, of Slaveholders' money to help build itself up; and is in close religious fellowship with thousands of American Presbyterians, clerical & lay, who in the name of God and Jesus are selling the men and women they should own & protect as brothers & sisters, and consigning them to physical degradation and suffering, and to moral corruption and death. Strange is it, how much professed religionists will wink at, and accept, if done in the name of Christ, i.e. with that name put forward and mouthed over sufficiently! And equally strange, how much that is pure, lovely, true, & full of good fruits, they will disown and cast away from them, if there be not a verbal profession of Christ & his religion, in accordance with their pre-conceived ideas. — "He that doeth my commandments," said that same authority to which they claim to appeal, "he it is that loveth me". "He who says, 'I love God'", — and hateth his brother, — is a liar." What is his saying worth? It only adds to his sin!

Christianity taught this 1850 years ago; and yet intelligent disciples of it, or rather those who pass for such, do not comprehend it yet. There is still, among such people, a very low superstition yet, about an outward appearance and talk of sanctity. As if God could be deceived — as if the Saviour would be gratified by this great talk in his pra- -Seest thou the man fallen among thieves? "Go & do thou likewise". "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto m -But so it is; and the religious world of today, proud, self-righteous loving an easy religion, unwilling to take up its cross a follow along in the Saviour's painful path, will contin to reject and to cast out all who come to it in the spirit of the Saviour, - which, if gentle towards the lowly, the tempted, and the penitent, was most majestically & inflexibly severe upon the hypocritical upon the pious villains who, in God's dear name, were devouring widows' houses, and, for a pretence making long prayers! Could he see through that "pretence" then, and can he not, will he not see through it now? Will he not thunder again in the ears - "Woe unto you, ye hypocrites, for ye shut up the Kingdom of heaven against men; ye neither go in yourselves, and those who were entering in, ye hindered!" "Ye serpents - Ye generation of vipers - how shall ye escape the damnation of hell!" - The are not new thoughts to me, - & certainly not to you, de friend; but reading that Edinburgh letter has revive an old - not forgotten - train of ideas in my mind. -

The little "Advocate" seems to be doing good service; I doubt not it is doing good service

Our new undertaking of Tract publishing for
Gratuitous distribution is going forward with
moderate success. We shall spend all the money
we get for it, and as fast as we get it. This
reminds me to tell you how Mrs. Stowe has
decided to appropriate the contents of two boxes
which some Swiss Ladies collected & sent to her for
the Antislavery cause. The donation was
accompanied with the ~~request~~ wish that it proceeds
might be used in buying Slave children, & setting
them free - a philanthropic & kindly intended
request, but showing a great want of acquaintance
with the institution of Slavery here. To buy up 2 or 3
children (the whole that could possibly be done in this way)
would make no moral impression on Slavery, and
would only open the way for 4 or 5 more to take their
places. Slave children will be raised just as fast
as they can be sold; and the traders don't care who
buys them, if they get a good price. Indeed they would
be quite delighted to get the Abolitionists for customers.
Mrs. Stowe understands this as well as any one,
and (as of course the final decision was left to
her judgment) seeing that no possible way existed
for her to dispose of these Boxes for such a purpose, as no
truly A.S. Society would take them on such conditions, has
decided ~~them~~ to give the whole to the Boston Bazaar, - to be
sold at a special table, & the entire proceeds devoted to the
Tract Fund of the American A.S. Society. She had at first
determined to divide the contents between Rochester
(& perhaps Philadelphia) and Boston, but on reviewing
the whole ground has decided as above. This is, of
course, very gratifying to us. Our Tract Fund greatly

needs enlarging, and we will do our best to help the slave-children in a more effectual way than by buying one or two of them vast number. — I do not mention this as an item for publication, or at least not with all the particulars as I have given them; but the general fact of Mrs. Stowe's donation, & its object, can very properly be named in the "advocate."—

I will send you a specimen or two of our tracts, from time to time.

(4-21 Comitty) The prospects of our Bazaar are excellent, saving that just now is an awfully hard time for money. This we hope will draw easier soon. — but in any event we shall have a beautiful collection of articles, & we think we cannot but have a succesful Sale.

By the last accounts, I judged that the prospects of the "London Conference" were not very encouraging. I am sorry for any failure of a truly anti-slavery meeting, and I will not question that that would have been such a one; but in so far as it's time would have been used to bring about a seeming union of our friends with men who still hate, with the genuine odium theologicum, the American Anti-slavery Society; I care nothing for it, as I am sure it would have been worse than a waste of time, labour, & money. I know I can speak for the English as well as

the American friends of the American A.S. Society, when I say that we all of them are ready for a crusade with all the world against Slavery, and all that abets & upholds it, on the only practicable basis, that of mutual good-will, & mutual toleration of each other's individual right of thought & speech on other subjects, so long as their discussion is not intruded upon the A.S. platform or into the A.S. meeting.

Bye & bye, when leisure may enable you, I wish you would give me some account of your Dublin visit, and of the several friends whom you saw there — Miss Wigham particularly. — Mr. Garrison has just got a letter from Pillsbury (at Dublin) which I have not yet been able to read. I have one, too, from Webb, just come, which I shall not be able to read until I have mailed this — it is seemingly wholly on business & money-matters.

Miss Pugh, as you have probably heard, has been laid up with a lame foot for some time. Whether she is yet able to go abroad, I do not know.

Please give my best love and respects to your father. I am owing Mr Armstrong a letter, and I often think with pleasure of my visit to him, to Mr. James, & the rest of my Bristol friends. How much I should like, in a quiet way, to step into your good city again, & walk the rounds of Park St. George St, Clifton, Kingstown, and Lewin's Mead. But here I am, with twice as much to do, as I have either faculty or time to do, as it should be done. But farewell to you, for now and believe me, with sincere regard,

Yours,

Samuel May Jr.